

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2007/2008
Journal

SHERRI VON ESSEN CASEY

Class of 1969

During Sherri's years at Copiague High, she was very involved in varsity cheerleading, class government, sports night, and dance and church activities. Her favorite moment in high school took place in her senior year with her induction into the National Honor Society.

After graduation in 1969, Sherri attended SUNY Potsdam where she majored in English Secondary Education. At the conclusion of her student teaching, Sherri was inducted into the education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi. In 1976, Sherri returned to her alma mater and began her career teaching English at Copiague High School. While teaching, Sherri continued her own education, earning her Master's Degree from SUNY Stony Brook in 1978.

In addition to her teaching duties, Sherri was involved in many aspects of CHS life until her retirement in June 2007. Starting out as cheerleading advisor for four years, she moved on to co-advise *Folio*, the school literary magazine, and to assist the National Honor Society. In addition, Sherri initiated education programs such as the Publishing Activity Center, which received recognition from the NYS Council of Industrial Arts Teachers. Her article describing this program was published in the May 1983 issue of the *Journal of the NYS School Boards Association*. In 2006, she was named a "Teacher of Excellence" by the NYS English Council. Over the years, Sherri served as cooperating teacher for several student teachers, provided staff development for Copiague teachers, and was selected as a mentor for first-year teachers. In her retirement, she is continuing as both a staff developer and mentor to new teachers in Copiague.

Beyond work, Sherri is an active member of the Long Island Greenbelt Trails Conference. She also enjoys kayaking, camping, and travel, and is a trustee of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, home of America's most influential poet.

Copiague has always been a special place. It nurtures, encourages, and challenges its young people. Sherri's family and teachers gave her the foundations and dreams which launched a happy and fruitful life. She is ever grateful.

"A kindness is never wasted."